CHAPTER XXX.

OF PREVIOUS ACQUITTALS OR CONVICTIONS.

Person once convicted or acquitted not to be tried for same offence.—

403. (*1*) A person who has once been tried by a Court of competent jurisdiction for an offence and convicted or acquitted of such offence shall, while such conviction or acquittal remains in force, not be liable to be tried again for the same offence, nor on the same facts for any other offence for which a different charge from the one made against him might have been made under section 236, or for which he might have been convicted under section 237.

(*2*) A person acquitted or convicted of any offence may be afterwards tried for any distinct offence for which a separate charge might have been made against him on the former trial under section 235, sub-section (*1*).

(*3*) A person convicted of any offence constituted by any act, causing consequences which, together with such act, constituted a different offence from that of which he was convicted, may be afterwards tried for such last-mentioned offence, if the consequences had not happened, or were not known to the Court to have happened, at the time when he was convicted.

(*4*) A person acquitted or convicted of any offence constituted by any acts may, notwithstanding such acquittal or conviction, be subsequently charged with, and tried for, any other offence constituted by the same acts which he may have committed if the Court by which he was first tried was not competent to try the offence with which he is subsequently charged.

(*5*) Nothing in this section shall affect the provisions of section 26 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, or section 188 of this Code. X of 1897.

Explanation.—The dismissal of a complaint, the stopping of proceedings under section 249, the discharge of the accused or any entry made upon a charge under section 273, is not an acquittal for the purposes of this section.

Illustrations.

(*a*) A is tried upon a charge of theft as a servant and acquitted. He cannot afterwards, while the acquittal remains in force, be charged with theft as a servant, or, upon the same facts, with theft simply, or with criminal breach of trust.

(*b*) A is tried upon a charge of murder and acquitted. There is no charge of robbery: but it appears from the facts that A committed robbery at the time when the murder was committed: he may afterwards be charged with, and tried for, robbery.

(*c*) A is tried for causing grievous hurt and convicted. The person injured afterwards dies. A may be tried again for culpable homicide.

(*d*) A is charged before the Court of Session and convicted of the culpable homicide of B. A may not afterwards be tried on the same facts for the murder of B.

(*e*) A is charged by a Magistrate of the first class with, and convicted by him of, voluntarily causing hurt to B. A may not afterwards be tried for voluntarily causing grievous hurt to B on the same facts, unless the case comes within paragraph 3 of the section.

(*f*) A is charged by a Magistrate of the second class with, and convicted by him of, theft of property from the person of B. A may be subsequently charged with and tried for robbery on the same facts.

(*g*) A, B and C are charged by a Magistrate of the first class with, and convicted by him of robbing D. A, B and C may afterwards be charged with, and tried for, dacoity on the same facts.